



CITY OF ROCHESTER.

❖ **REPORTS** ❖

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

AS TO

Urban and Port Sanitary Districts,

FOR THE YEAR

1900.

ROCHESTER:

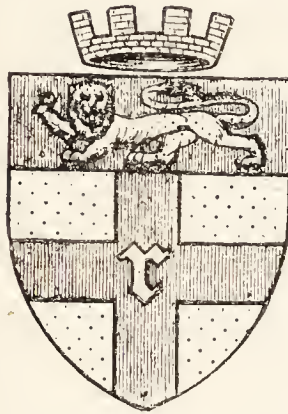
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CITY OF ROCHESTER.



REPORT AS TO URBAN DISTRICT.

OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER,

February 26th, 1901.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the following as my Report on the Sanitary condition of the Urban District, for the year 1900.

Population of the Urban District at Census 1891 ..	26,309
Estimated at Midsummer 1900	31,834
Area of Urban District	2,906 acres
Number of Inhabited Houses 1891	5,065
Approximate ditto 1900	6,572

I am pleased to inform your Committee that the General Death Rate was a very low one, being 3 per 1,000 lower than that of last year.

The actual number of Deaths in the district was	582
To which must be added those occurring in the Medway Union Infirmary of persons belonging to your District	18
	<hr/> 600
Deducting those dying in Public Institutions not belonging to District	131
	<hr/> 469
The corrected number of Deaths was therefore	

POPULATION.

Assuming that the rate of increase in the population, which obtained between 1881 and 1891, has continued uniformly since 1891, the inhabitants of the Urban District at Midsummer, 1900, would number 31,834

The estimation of the population hitherto has been made for the whole District, and not according to "localities." If the ordinary increase of births over deaths for the past 9 years be added to 1891 census the population would be 30,511.

The Death Rate for 1900 was therefore 14·6 per thousand.

The Birth Rate was 25·5 per thousand.

The Zymotic Death Rate was 1·5 per thousand.

The following are the approximate Rates for England and Wales for 1900 :—

Death Rate, all causes, 18·3 per thousand.

Birth Rate 28·9 per thousand.

Death Rate (Zymotic), 2·0 per thousand.

Infant Mortality, 154 per thousand births.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Board, and to fill in the necessary information on Tables I., II., III., IV., appended to this Report, I have for this purpose divided the Urban District into two "localities," viz. : Medway, and Strood, as being convenient and as belonging to the Unions of the like names.

Census 1881 ..	Medway 14,240 ..	Strood 7,067
.. 1891 ..	.. 15,604 ..	.. 10,705
Estimated 1900 ..	.. 16,982 ..	.. 15,710

The sum of these two estimated populations represents the number of inhabitants of the whole District as 32,692, or 858 in excess of the estimate made of the District as a whole.

By multiplying the number of inhabited houses by 5 it is roughly calculated to be 32,860

In Table II. the result of both methods is shewn, first for the whole District, and next divided into Medway and Strood "localities." The population of the Medway portion appears to be of a very slow annual increase, whereas that of Strood seems to have more than doubled itself since 1881. The figures for the Census 1901 will be looked forward to with great interest

TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS

Year.	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths Zymotic Diseases.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births.
1892	813	426	54	30·1	15·8	1·7	137
1893	804	426	55	29·3	15·5	1·9	130
1894	787	442	53	28·0	15·7	1·6	143
1895	792	428	38	27·6	14·9	1·3	156
1896	818	463	78	27·9	15·8	2·6	136
1897	794	405	84	26·5	13·5	2·7	147
1898	800	509	69	26·2	16·6	2·2	182
1899	809	550	102	25·9	17·6	3·2	199
1900	813	469	44	25·5	14·6	1·5	167

The following were registered as causes of Death of children under 5 years of age:—Measles 1, Scarlatina 1, Whooping Cough 5, Diphtheria and Croup 4, Diarrhœa 27, Enteritis 7, Septic Diseases 5, Phthisis 2, Other Tubercular Diseases 11, Bronchitis 15, Pneumonia 2, Other Respiratory Diseases 6, Premature Births 15, Syphilis 1, Accidents 1, Other Causes 64. Total 167.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Table showing number of Deaths for the past 9 years:—

Year	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Croup	Whooping Cough	Typhoid	Diarrhœa	Total	Death Rate per 1,000
1892	0	13	1	7	4	15	7	7	54	1·7
1893	0	8	3	8	1	2	5	28	55	1·9
1894	0	2	9	16	3	16	1	6	53	1·6
1895	0	2	1	15	1	3	1	15	38	1·6
1896	0	24	9	17	5	2	7	14	78	2·6
1897	0	0	2	26	0	15	7	34	84	2·7
1898	0	5	3	1	2	6	5	37	69	2·2
1899	0	19	8	5	1	17	3	49	102	3·2
1900	0	1	1	3	2	5	5	28	45	1·5

The above shows a marked decrease in the number of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases in the Urban District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

The following notifications were received during the year :—

Parish	Small Pox	Scarla- tina	Diph- theria	M Croup	Enteric & continued Fever	Erysi- pelas	Puerperal Fever	Total
Strood and Frindsbury	0	40	24	3	20	18	0	105
St. Margaret's	0	24	19	0	10	9	1	63
St. Nicholas	0	8	1	0	5	1	1	16
Chatham Intra	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	72	45	3	35	28	2	185

The following Tables have been prepared to indicate the number of notifications received since 1892 in each locality, and the average for the 8 years ending 1899, in order to compare with the figures of 1900. It appears that Strood furnishes three-fifths of the total number of notifications (probably because of the greater number of children there than in the Medway), and that during 1900 the Urban District has been less affected with infectious diseases than for many years past.

MEDWAY.

Year.	Enteric and Continued.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal.	Small Pox.	Typhus.	Total.
1892	12	24	27	17	1	0	0	81
1893	14	84	19	49	1	0	0	167
1894	12	123	18	31	0	5	1	190
1895	13	39	13	34	1	1	0	101
1896	4	80	40	25	2	1	0	152
1897	20	86	67	24	1	0	0	198
1898	13	71	67	24	0	0	0	175
1899	5	104	20	23	2	0	0	154
Average, 8 yrs. 11		76	34	28	1	·8	·	152
1900	15	32	21	10	2	·	·	80

STROOD.

Year.	Enteric and Continued.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal.	Total.
1892	24	17	38	48	1	128
1893	10	81	24	40	2	157
1894	5	148	38	34	0	225
1895	8	67	80	27	1	183
1896	33	122	83	28	2	268
1897	9	81	64	18	1	173
1898	7	30	22	17	1	77
1899	12	195	28	33	1	269
Average, 8 years	13	92	47	30	1	185
1900	20	40	27	18	0	105

SMALL POX.

No case of Small Pox has occurred since 1896.

The following facts afford an instance of the unprotected condition of adults against Small Pox. During 1900 I revaccinated 39 persons (candidates for posts under Government), varying from 14 to 45 years of age, and in only one instance was the operation unsuccessful. Many of those presenting themselves had been thoroughly well vaccinated in their infancy and exhibited very large cicatrices. It may fairly be assumed that this unprotected condition exists all over the country at the present time, save in those towns which have already suffered from an outbreak of Small Pox, and revaccinations have been performed as a last resource. It may reasonably be accepted, if the revaccination should "take," that infection of Small Pox would also "take." The moral is obvious.

MEASLES.

One death was registered, whereas in 1899 no less than 19 occurred.

SCARLATINA.

The number of notifications of this disease was 72; of these 50 per cent. were removed to St. William's Hospital. The disease was of mild type, and only one death was recorded.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

The number notified and the deaths resulting were about the same as last year, viz., 48 cases, with 5 fatal ones. Of these deaths two occurred in one family, and were probably due to the following cause. At the rear of the house it was found that the yard gully had been badly connected direct with the road sewer. The paving round the gully was broken and allowed the sewer air, which was very foul, to escape into the yard.

Two deaths occurred in houses where the cesspools were found to be unventilated. In previous Annual Reports the question of Sewer-air and Diphtheria, as cause and effect, has often been suggested. The sewer gases, instead of being pent up and ready to escape at any badly-jointed drain, should, by means of ventilators, be assisted to disperse themselves as high in the air as practicable, where they may be diluted, and largely rendered harmless.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Two cases were reported, and one ended fatally.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Fifteen cases were notified from the Medway District, and 20 from Strood. No pains were spared in order to ascertain the source of infection in each case, but with not altogether satisfactory results. One was admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital from Hoo. Five were found to have eaten cockles which were undoubtedly sewage polluted.

(These cases have been already reported to your Committee and to the Local Government Board.)

One came from Poole whose sickness, commencing with vomiting, can reasonably be ascribed to the fact that his vessel was moored for several days opposite a foul open sewer.

Of the cases which appear to have arisen locally, four occurred in two adjoining houses where the drainage was found to be faulty, and two others in a house where the closet was in a neglected stinking condition, due to a cracked closet pan and faulty ventilation of cesspool.

In the Annual Report for 1899, reference was made to several cases of Enteric Fever arising in Pelican Yard, and the insanitary condition of the Creek close by.

It is satisfactory to state that this matter has been dealt with by the Council, and the work required to be done has been carried out under the direction of your City Surveyor. The crude excreta from the houses, in-

stead of going straight to the Creek—as hitherto—have been directed to well contrived and built intercepting cesspools— from which the solids are removed monthly—at the top of each of these cesspools a galvanized-iron perforated tray has been placed, containing Alumino-Ferric blocks upon which a fine jet of water is directed, and thus the sewage receives chemical treatment before the liquid contents run off into the Creek. The nuisance previously complained of has been much mitigated if not altogether abated.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Five deaths were registered as due to this disease. Whooping Cough and Measles are generally prevalent at the same time. Last year we had seventeen deaths from Whooping Cough and nineteen deaths from Measles, whereas this year we had only five deaths from Whooping Cough and one death from Measles.

DIARRHŒA.

As to the causation of this disease, which is so fatal amongst infants during the summer months, especially July and August, I have little to add to my remarks contained in Annual Reports for 1898 and 1899. During May, large bills were posted and handbills circulated worded as follows—

“ This Disease is the cause of many deaths, especially among children, during the hot weather, and may in great measure be avoided by the exercise of common care. Cleanliness of person and surroundings, and a judicious diet are the best safeguards against it.

“ The public water supply of the town is now happily above the suspicion of contamination, but no water even from this source should be allowed to stand before being used for drinking purposes, and all water from private wells or other like sources should invariably be boiled before use.

“ Only sound and fresh flesh of any kind should be used as food, and this should be well cooked. The same remark applies to cooking vegetables of every kind. Unripe or over-ripe fruit should be rigorously avoided. Infants under nine months of age should receive nothing but milk, or milk and water, well boiled, when the milk is from any other source than the mother's breast. All food utensils, and especially milk vessels and babies' feeding bottles, should be well washed and soaked before use, in clean, and if possible, boiling water.

“ Acute Diarrhœa followed by death in a few days or even hour is often occasioned by neglect of these simple precautions.

“ A qualified medical man should be at once called in to every case of severe bowel disturbance. It is a wise precaution to disinfect with strong solution of carbolic acid the bowel discharges of all Diarrhœa patients before placing them in the closet pail. All articles or material soiled with such discharges should be at once soaked and cleansed with the same solution.”

PHTHISIS AND OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The death-rate from Phthisis was 1.1 per thousand and that from all other lung diseases was 2.3 per thousand. These death rates have remained fairly constant in the Urban District for several years.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS, 1878-91.

The whole of the Factories and Workshops in the Urban District have been visited and a few sanitary defects discovered and remedied. One of H.M. Inspectors under these Acts called the attention of the Corporation to the insufficient closet accommodation for separate sexes, at a certain book-binding establishment.

The Medical Officer of Health is required under Section 3 of the Factory and Workshops Act of 1891, to send written notice to H.M. Inspector of Factories for the District of any case of the employment of a child, young person, or woman, in any workshop, which may come to his knowledge. No such notice was required to be sent during the past year.

ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL.

Two hundred and two patients were admitted from the two Constituent Authorities during the year 1900. Rochester furnished 88, Chatham 114.

ROCHESTER.

Ages	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Enteric	Other	Totals
Under 5	8	8	0	0	16
5 and upwards	30	16	22	4	72

CHATHAM.

Under 5	21	7	1	0	29
5 and upwards	47	20	18	0	85
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	106	51	41	4	202

The plans for the proposed extension of the Hospital that were first prepared and submitted to the Local Government Board, were returned for alteration and amendment in several particulars. The Local Government Board were averse to having either Discharge rooms or Observation Wards in the same Block as contained Wards for treatment of infectious disease. This consequently necessitated fresh plans and extra small blocks.

The Hospital is now provided with a modern well equipped Ambulance for the removal of patients.

The new Steam Disinfecting Apparatus is easily managed. Very economical as regards cost of fuel and is a great improvement on the old Hot Air Apparatus.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No Samples were submitted to the City Analyst during the year.

Eight sides of pork were seized as being unfit for human food. The Magistrates convicted and imposed a fine of £5, and £4 13s. costs.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS ORDER 1885-99.

All the Dairies and Cowsheds in the City have been twice inspected during the year, and, when required, notices to cleanse and whitewash have been served.

Under the new Regulations several of the Cowsheds will have to be dealt with from a defective Structural point of view. The Regulations do not apply till August 14th, 1901.

LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1900.

The following information was obtained at the Strood Waterworks in Rochester :—

Month.	Total Depth Inches.	Greatest fall in 24 Hours. Depth.	Date.	Number of Days on which .01 or more fell.
Jan.	2·62	·56	6th	20
Feb.	3·76	·59	15th & 17th	19
March	·89	·63	18th	8
April	1·03	·35	3rd & 5th	9
May	1·03	·27	6th	14
June	2·43	·54	21st	16
July	·97	·43	27th	6
Aug.	1·79	·33	3rd	14
Sept.	·66	·41	27th	6
Oct.	1·80	·47	29th	14
Nov.	2·72	·52	16th	23
Dec.	2·21	·57	30th	19
Total	21·91			168

The Rainfall in the Chatham District, as reported by Mr. W. C. Finch at Luton Waterworks, was 24·53 inches during 1900.

WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of two wells used by certain brewers, and the one at the Oil Seed Mills, there are now but four private wells in use in the Urban District. All these waters have been chemically examined, with satisfactory results. In the Annual Report for 1892 allusion was made to the fact that 450 closets were connected with the water mains in Strood by means of stool valves. There are now but eight, which is so far satisfactory, but it should be borne in mind that even this small number might produce very serious results under certain faulty conditions.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

For the past nine years special records have been kept concerning Borstal. During that time only 133 deaths occurred, or an average of 14·7 per annum. There are about 310 inhabited houses, and this number, multiplied by 5, roughly makes the population to be 1550. These figures produce the low death-rate of 9·5 per thousand living, and bear testimony to the special healthiness of that part of the District.

The diminution in the number of cases of infectious diseases was very marked and satisfactory when compared with several years past.

All the Elementary Schools in the District received their usual annual fumigation.

House to house inspection is still being persevered with.

All the Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses and Common Lodging-houses have been inspected and due attention given to their cleanliness. Again has the Manure Nuisance at Strood cropped up—Two cargoes of foul manure had to be dealt with—Your Committee resolved that if a similar cause of complaint again arise, the unloading of manure within the City will be altogether prohibited.

With reference to cattle-boat manure, the following telegram dated April 6th was received from the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.

“As foot and mouth disease has appeared amongst animals brought from Argentina, the Board suggest that should your Sanitary Authority permit the landing of manure and ship fittings under Article 17 of the Foreign Animals' Order of 1896, they should take special steps to cause their immediate destruction after landing or to effectually prevent the fittings or manure being brought into contact with home stock.”

Soon after this another telegram was received to the effect that two barges “Fortitude” and “Sarah Ann”—loaded with manure and “Envy Grace” with ship fittings from Cattle-Boat from Argentina, were proceeding

to Rochester, and directing that steps should be taken to prevent these cargoes being unloaded—A strict look-out was kept but these barges did not appear on the Medway.

As to the ventilation of Strood sewers, it is satisfactory to be able to note that the City Surveyor has received instructions to include £80—the cost of six ventilating shafts—in the estimates for 1901, and to carry out the work. With regard to the question of a Main Drainage Scheme for the District, I have no special or additional remarks to make to those I have expressed in former Reports. My views on this matter are well known to your Committee.

The attention of your Committee is called to the insufficient accommodation provided at the Baths. At times, especially on the penny days, the bathers number several hundreds. The water, on these occasions, does more to injure than improve the health.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

The following cottages were reported as unfit for human habitation:—1, 2, 3, 4, Church Path, Strood; 2, 3, the Orchard; Ten Cottages, The Orchard; Two Cottages, back to back, The Orchard.

The defects found, and which led to the cottages being reported, were *inter-alia* ground floors below ground surface level, shaky rotten floors, unsafe stairs, general dampness through defective roofs and spouting, no proper receptacles for house refuse, foul open-seated privies, &c.

These houses were patched up, but will, no doubt, soon require further and more decisive steps to be taken.

In addition to the above, there are the old and dilapidated parts of the City, *e.g.*, Dunning's Lane, Bartholomew's Square, and Strood Square. Surely these are areas needing special dealings and attention.

NUISANCES REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Privies, dangerous and defective structure	89
„ insufficient accommodation	2
„ defective pits	9
Cesspools, insufficient accommodation	21
„ defective and coverings to	16
„ unventilated	89
„ defective and insufficient ventilation	11
Earth closets, defective	32

Water closets, substituted for privies	22
„ defective structure	53
„ „ soil pipes to	17
„ „ water fittings	31
„ unventilated or insufficiently	4
„ cisterns for flushing.....	3
Drains, defective and untrapped.....	78
„ stoppage in	141
„ defective traps and gullies to	40
„ house sinks connected with	19
„ defective surface	2
Houses, cleansed	7
„ defective paving in yard	35
„ overcrowded	5
„ defective rain water shoots and gutters	53
„ ashpits and sanitary bins supplied.....	178
„ „ rebuilt or repaired	47
„ filthy premises	6
„ unfit for human habitation	4
„ defective roofs	37
„ wash-house doors.....	9
Bakehouses, dirty.....	9
Cowsheds, dirty.....	13
„ yard, open cesspool.....	2
Stables, undrained and unpaved.....	4
Urinals, defective, filthy	6
Latrines, unflushed, cleansed and whitewashed	9
Offensive smoke	1
Animals causing nuisances, notices served—Rabbits	
12, pigs 3, fowls 9, ferrets 1	25
Manure and filth accumulations	45
Workshops dirty	3
Schools fumigated	11
„ No. cleaned and whitewashed.....	6
Offensive RW. tank	1
Manure pits rebuilt	4
Carcases removed, pigs	4
Defective joint in ventilator.....	1
Filth deposited in Street	2
Total.....	1206

The number of Nuisances dealt with and recorded in 1893 was 313, whereas in 1900 they amounted to 1,206. These figures afford some

testimony that the Sanitary Work of the City is receiving no little attention.

In submitting this my Ninth Annual Report to the consideration of your Committee, I would at once confess that it contains very little matter which has not already in some way or other been brought to the notice of the various Committees of the Council.

Probably the many Tables herein contained, may be considered uninteresting from an ordinary reader's point of view, but to your Committee, I would respectfully suggest that they present the history of the City from a health aspect for the last nine years, and have required much time to be spent in preparing them.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WATSON.

TABLE I.

ROCHESTER.—For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.*	Deaths under 1 Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Total Deaths at all ages.	Total Death Rate.*	Deaths in Pub- lic Institutions.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District.	Deaths of Resi- dents register- ed beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	Death Rate* at all Ages. Nett.
1892 ..	26943	813	30.1	112	137.7	484	17.5	118	72	14	426	15.8
1893 ..	27510	804	29.3	105	130	497	18.0	137	85	14	426	15.5
1894 ..	28090	787	28.0	113	143	517	18.4	124	85	10	442	15.7
1895 ..	28682	792	27.6	124	156	488	17.0	117	76	16	428	14.9
1896 ..	29286	818	27.9	112	136	564	19.2	161	112	11	463	15.8
1897 ..	29903	794	26.5	117	147	481	16.0	133	90	14	405	13.5
1898 ..	30533	800	26.2	145	182	638	20.0	191	151	22	509	16.6
1899 ..	31117	809	25.9	161	199	642	20.0	194	113	21	550	17.6
Averages for years 1892 to 1899.	29008	802	27.7	123	153.7	539	18.2	149	98	15	456	15.6
1900 ..	31834	813	22.3	136	167	582	18.2	182	131	18	469	14.6

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

At Census of 1891 the total population at all ages was 26,309; Number of inhabited houses, 5065; Average number of persons per house, 5.1.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 2,906

TABLE II.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				MEDWAY.				STROOD.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1892 ..	26943	813	426	112	15784	426	272	49	11280	387	154	63
1893 ..	27510	804	426	105	15930	395	241	43	11753	409	185	62
1894 ..	28090	787	442	113	16075	422	244	57	12252	365	198	56
1895 ..	28682	792	428	124	16222	392	244	47	12771	400	184	77
1896 ..	29286	818	463	112	16372	403	255	50	13313	415	208	62
1897 ..	29903	794	405	117	16522	405	243	68	13877	389	162	49
1898 ..	30533	800	509	145	16680	402	287	66	14466	398	222	79
1899 ..	31117	809	550	161	16830	415	309	79	15079	394	241	82
Averages of Years 1892 to 1899.	29008	802	456	123	16301	407	262	57	13111	394	194	66
1900 ..	31834	813	469	136	16982	393	262	71	15710	420	207	65

TABLE III.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.		No. of Cases Removed to Hospital.		
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	MEDWAY.	STROOD.	MEDWAY. (H)	STROOD.
Diphtheria	45		13	21	3	8		22	23	14	10
Membranous Croup	3		3						3		
Erysipelas	28	2	1	1	5	19		10	18		
Scarlet Fever	72		22	40	6	4		32	40	14	24
Enteric Fever	35		1	11	13	10		15	20	7	15
Puerperal Fever ..	2					2		2			
Totals	185	2	40	73	27	43		81	104	35	49

TABLE IV. **ROCHESTER DISTRICT.***Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).		Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Medway.	Strood.	
Measles ..	1		1						1	
Scarlet fever	1		1							
Whooping-cough ..	5	5						3	2	
Diphtheria & membranous croup ..	5		4		1				5	2
Enteric Fever	5			1	1	3		3	2	3
Epidemic Influenza ..	14				1	6	7	5	9	1
Diarrhœa ..	28	26	1			1		12	16	
Enteritis ..	7	6	1					5	2	
Puerperal fever	1					1		1		
Other septic diseases ..	7	4	1			2		5	2	
Phthisis ..	37	1	1	2	3	29	1	26	11	3
Other tubercular diseases	22	6	5	3	3	4	1	11	11	4
Cancer, malignant disease	19					14	5	13	6	3
Bronchitis ..	48	14	1			13	20	28	20	8
Pneumonia ..	15	1	1		2	9	2	6	9	1
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	12	3	3			3	3	4	8	
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of } Liver .. }	8					8		5	3	2
Venereal diseases ..	1	1							1	
Premature births ..	15	15						12	3	
Heart diseases	37			2	2	20	13	22	15	8
Accidents ..	15		1	4	1	4	5	5	10	8
Suicides ..	1					1		1		1
Apoplexy ..	14					6	8	7	7	2
All other causes	151	54	10	3	5	17	62	86	65	23
All causes	469	136	31	15	19	141	127	262	207	69



REPORT AS TO PORT SANITARY DISTRICT.

OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER,

February 26th, 1901.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Ninth Annual Report on the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1900.

The Vessels entering the Port were as follows:—

FOREIGN TRADE:—

British Steam ..	..	42	Sailing ..	..	62
Foreign Steam ..	..	30	Sailing ..	..	78
		—			—
		72			140

COASTING TRADE:

British Steam ..	..	588	Sailing ..	..	180
Foreign Steam ..	..	4	Sailing ..	..	1
		—			—
		592			181

Total Steam 664. Total Sailing 321.

Your Port Sanitary Inspector boarded the following vessels in addition to the above-mentioned.

RIVER TRADERS :—

Barges	1447
Canal Boats	307
Lighters	8
Fishing Boats	6

Total number of vessels inspected .. 2753.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS :—

British, 2641; Norwegian, 36; Danish, 23; German, 26; Swedish, 15; Russian, 6; Dutch, 3; French, 1; Italian, 2: total, 2753.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AT SHEERNESS.

The number of vessels from Foreign which passed Sheerness during the year without being Medically inspected was 83, or nearly 40 per cent. of the whole. Such a result as this cannot be considered satisfactory.

The only means at present available for the use of the Medical Inspector is the open boat used by the Coastguard (on whose opinion it often largely rests whether the doctor is required or not).

Dr. Fox, who now holds the appointment from the Port Sanitary Authority of London, under an agreement with your Authority, is also in private practice, and necessarily cannot be always at hand when wanted. The responsibility for arranging for the proper and needful inspection of all ships coming from Foreign rests entirely with the Port of London, in whose District Sheerness, Queenborough, and Port Victoria are situated.

RIVER POLLUTION ACTS.

There is nothing special to report. When the City of Rochester has carried out a proper system of Drainage, as the Port Sanitary Authority she will find ample opportunities for complaint against other communities.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877—1884.

As these vessels are ordinarily used as dwellings as well as for trade purposes, every attention is paid to their sanitary requirements. The Port

Sanitary Inspector, acting under my directions, has also carried out the duties of Inspector of Canal Boats.

Henry Evans—who has succeeded to the post on the resignation of Edward L. Filley, from September 29th—made his first inspection on November 6th. From this date to December 31st he has made 73 visits to Canal Boats, and found 16 infringements; all of which have been remedied.

I beg to call your attention to a paragraph, page 12 of “Extracts from the Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1899—1900:

“The Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Port of Rochester is one of the most satisfactory I have received. In spite of having no launch, he has, in his small sailing boat, inspected no less than 253 craft coming under the Canal Boats Act, and caused no less than 86 infringements to be remedied, out of 87 discovered on 57 boats. Absence of cleanliness and ventilation account for 51 of these infringements. In addition, he has procured the registration of 22 boats, mostly sailing barges, that have hitherto escaped any kind of inspection.”

No case of Infectious Disease was met with. In few instances legal proceedings against Owners were threatened, but it was not found necessary to take further action, as the notices served to abate the nuisance were readily complied with.

TABLE PREPARED FROM INSPECTORS' BOOKS.

Number of new boats registered	11
„ Re-registered owing to structural alterations ..	0
„ „ for other reasons	0
„ Boats registered at December 31st	249
„ Registrations cancelled	0

Number of Boats Inspected	307
Conforming to Acts and Regulations	261
„ Boats with one or more infringements	46

Notification of Change of Master	..	..	..	0
Absence of Certificate, Act 77, Sec. 3	..	..	..	5
Certificate not identifying Owner with Boat	..	..	..	0
Marking, Act 77, Sec. 3	..	..	..	2
Cleanliness, Regulation 11	..	..	..	9
Painting, Regulation 9	..	..	..	9
Ventilation, Regulation 3	..	..	..	12
Dilapidated, Regulation 11	..	..	..	9
No Stove in Cabin	..	..	..	3
No proper Water Vessel	..	..	..	1
<hr/>				
Total Number of Infringements	..	..	..	50
„ „ „ Remedied	..	..	..	50

Number of Women in Boats Inspected	..	..	..	19
„ Children, between 5 and 12	..	..	..	5
„ „ 3 years and under	..	..	..	1

(Signed) HENRY EVANS,

Inspector of Canal Boats.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT.

Owing to the presence of Plague in the Port of Glasgow, certain passengers from that town, on arriving in the Port of London and bound to this District, were notified to me by Dr. Collingridge, Medical Officer of Health. These persons were duly visited by me on their return home.

On August 7th, I felt constrained to report to the Local Government Board a case of a seaman who appeared to exhibit symptoms of Bubonic Plague. The youth was sent to St. William's Hospital, while due enquiries were being made. In this matter I received very valuable assistance from the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, as well as the advice of one of their Inspectors, who hurried down. Luckily it was found that after bacteriological examination—at first deemed as *not inconsistent* with plague—that a telegram was received later on negating the presence of the Plague Bacillus in the blood forwarded for examination.

Nov. 7.—The s. s. "Iolite," belonging to Glasgow, arrived here. It was deemed necessary to keep strict watch over this vessel. She was cleaned and disinfected throughout, and visited by the Inspector twice a day.

Nov. 29.—Swedish barquentine “Bondon,” from Algiers—a cholera and plague infected port—arrived. She had not been medically inspected at Sheerness. Your Medical Officer at once boarded her and inspected the crew, who were all well. The vessel was disinfected throughout, drinking water tanks emptied, cleansed, and refilled with water from this Port.

Nov. 29.—The s. s. “Frankland,” from Sunderland; crew 16. This vessel was boarded immediately on arrival by the Medical Officer of Health, on account of part of her crew having joined at Sunderland from a ship infected with small-pox. The vessel was disinfected, and visited twice a day during her stay in the Port.

The following table shows the number of notices served by the Port Sanitary Inspectors during the past year, on vessels other than Canal Boats, and the nuisances met and dealt with.

	CASES.	REMEDIED.
Dirty cabins to be cleaned	82	82
Cabins to be painted or limewashed ..	27	27
Defective lighting in cabins or fore-castles	7	7
Defective ventilation in cabins or fore-castles	4	4
Defective ventilation of holds	9	9
„ decks, causing wet berths ..	10	10
„ water storage	10	10
„ bulkheads, allowing effluvia from cargo to enter cabin ..	2	2
Insufficient sleeping accommodation ..	1	1
„ water storage	2	2
To provide stoves for cabins	4	3
„ cleanse bedding and hammocks ..	3	3
„ remove stores from bunks	4	4
„ erect lamp lockers	1	1
W.C.s, to cleanse and disinfect	10	10
Peaks and lazarettes, to cleanse and limewash	4	4
To refit side scuttles and deck prisms ..	11	11
„ cleanse and disinfect bilges	2	2
„ line iron decks over berths	1	1
Defective floors	5	5
Dilapidated cabins	11	8
	<hr/> 210	<hr/> 206

With reference to offensive and dangerous cargoes of manure, the matter has been alluded to in the Report to the Health Committee for the Urban District.

The riverside factories and creeks have received very frequent visits, in order to look to the sanitary arrangements provided for the men.

Your Port Sanitary Inspector is paying assiduous attention to his duties, and your Medical Officer is led to believe that the Sanitary Work of the Port is being performed in such a way as to merit the approval of your Committee.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM WATSON.

